

may, it is believed, if laid out in gill nets, purchase enough to cross the mouths of every river on the Sound, including the Roanoke and Chowan, and thus, measurably, confine the fish to the Albemarle and lower Sounds. They reach from the surface to the bottom, and are in the water day and night. May it not be *reasonably* inferred, then, that the diminution of fish on the Roanoke is to be ascribed to some of these causes, rather than to the Sound fisheries, which as we have seen, do not fish more than 500 or 600 yards of a channel five to ten miles wide, and are not even in that portion of the channel more than four hours in the twenty-four. Besides, the Sound fisheries, are day fisheries, for long experience has shown that it is unprofitable, and more perilous to lay the seines out in the night.

The instance stated of the Roanoke, is not the only one in which fish have been thus turned from their usual haunts and have not returned to them until long after all obstructions have been removed. To say nothing of former times, late instances can probably be given by the members from Tyrrell, and perhaps by other members from the eastern counties, of the immense quantities of fish that flooded the Alligator river, and passed through a narrow channel into the *Frying-pan*. The same can be said of the Scuppernong river, at the float bridge at Columbia, and of the Perquimons at the float bridge at Hertford. At these places, seines were hauled as in the narrow channel of the Roanoke, and any quantity of fish could be taken. Yet these places have been long since abandoned as fishing stations, and before any fisheries were established below the mouths of these rivers. On the Potomac there were similar instances in the days of General Washington, who owned a fishery, which, if it was not recorded by him, has been handed down to us upon his authority.

If, then, such causes have operated, and may operate to break off fish from narrow water courses, when they can resort to vast expanses of fresh water, such as the Albemarle or the wide Potomac, why shall we seek visionary